

struction in history should be considered sufficient, and will be amply so if teachers are faithful.

When these subjects have been so studied that the scholar begins to understand them, *then* other branches may be introduced; *Book-keeping* for those who wish preparation for business purposes; *Algebra*, as an introduction to the mysteries of higher mathematics; and the systematic study of *Natural Philosophy*. The Text-Book, on the latter subject, should not be taken up as a study before the Elementary Algebra has been studied by the scholars. But there are facts and principles in this science, (as well as in Natural History) which should be communicated to children, from the very first term of their attendance upon school. Let them learn daily something from their teacher about the world around them; let them know that his information extends beyond the few books given them for study. Let a short, familiar lecture on such subjects be delivered daily, making it the last exercise of the school, and it will be looked forward to with the greatest interest. Ascertain, by questions, frequently repeated, in the way of review of what you have said, whether the child has acquired the power of reproducing the lesson. "No oral teaching is good—this should be a cardinal maxim of the teacher—that is not carefully and thoroughly reproduced by the learner."

Some may say how can we accomplish all this? We despair of realizing such a conception of teaching. To which the answer is, it is your duty to try. If you cannot find pleasure in leading young minds into fresh fields of knowledge day by day, and in honest effort to make attractive the subjects you are expected to teach; if you are willing to lapse into the mechanical ideas of teaching that obtained, at one time, all through our land,—it were far better for you to select some other pursuit and give up an occupation for which you are not fitted. "*A school without life in the teacher, is an engine with no steam in the boiler.*" For such teachers their should be no place in our Public Schools. This is an active, energetic age; the school master must move *with* it, and impart enthusiasm and zeal to the young minds placed under his charge, or else give place to others who are more anxious to fill the full measure of this duty.

Let it be your ambition to prepare yourselves in the best manner possible, for your duties; do not rest satisfied with the lowest grade of proficiency required of those who wish to teach in the Public Schools of this County, but fit yourselves as speedy as possible to take *first grade certificates*, counting no labor too great, if it be necessary, to accomplish that end.

With the hope that success may attend your labors, I have the honor to be, Yours, very truly,

LEWIS H. STEINER,
President Board of School Commissioners.